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## **Governor signs Sen. Goschka's local public works legislation**

**LANSING** — Sen. Mike Goschka's legislation to aid local governments in paying for water projects has been signed into law by the governor.

After hearing concerns from Saginaw County Public Works Commissioner, Jim Koski, Goschka introduced a bill in March that allows local governments to extend the payment period to 40 years for major improvement projects, such as for water and sewer service. Existing state law only allows governments to pay off such projects over 30 years. A 40-year plan results in lower annual payments.

"Jim [Koski] was so very vital in making this legislation happen. When someone so incredibly knowledgeable comes to you with not only a problem, but also solutions to that problem, it allows the process to work much more efficiently," Goschka said.

Goschka, R-Brant, said local officials complained that existing law made it difficult for their communities to get funding for projects at an acceptable annual cost. Additionally, a number of federal low-cost loan programs have been extended to 40 years, and Goschka's effort has Michigan match that.

"I want to thank everyone involved in this for their quick work on my legislation," Goschka said. "Local government leaders now will have greater flexibility in deciding how to pay for important water and sewer projects."

Goschka's Senate Bill 1120 is now Public Act 245 of 2006.

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